Multiple Trends in Alcohol and Drug Use and Treatment Utilization on Both Sides of the Border

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USA-Mexico Border Volleyball
Today’s Topics

• Why is the border of interest?
• Risk and protective factors
• Trends in substance use & disorders
• Comparing border and other populations
  – Off border cities, US Hispanics, colonias
• Comparing US and Mexico borders
• Desire for and use of treatment
• Related factors
Learning Objectives

• Knowledge about prevalence of substance use and disorders on both sides of Border and off Border.
• Knowledge about desire for, and use of, treatment on Border
• Understanding of correlates of substance disorders and desire for treatment.
The Unique Border Area

- Immigration, drug trafficking, security
- Fast-growing & dynamic region
- Foreign-born to 4th generation
- Complex blend of US & MX cultures
• 1/2 of US Hispanics live in CA & TX
• 8% of US Hispanics in border counties
• 2/3 of Mexican immigrants live in the four border states
The “Border” is not one homogeneous place!

- California ≠ Arizona ≠ New Mexico ≠ Texas
- El Paso ≠ Laredo ≠ Rio Grande Valley
- Urban ≠ Colonias
- US ≠ Mexico
Primary Drug of Abuse at Admission to Treatment: 2012

SSA, DGE. SISVEA 2012. TEDS
Drug Items Seized and Identified on the Texas Border: NFLIS 2013

The chart shows the drug items seized and identified on the Texas border in 2013. The drugs include Cannabis, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, MDMA, Hydrocodone, Heroin, and Alprazolam. The data is categorized for El Paso, Laredo, and McAllen.
Risk Factors

- Greater alcohol advertising and availability
- Lower cost of alcohol
- Lower & under-enforced legal drinking age
- Easier availability of Rx pharmaceuticals
- Young population age structure
- Drug trafficking
- Stresses of poverty, high unemployment, rapid population growth, acculturation, immigration insecurity
Protective Factors

• Strong family & social support systems
• Religiosity
• Lower levels of drug use in Mexico
• Drinking norms
• Immigrant advantage
Border Surveys

1996 – 1,665 residents of Brownsville, El Paso, Laredo and McAllen and 504 in colonias

2003 – 400 residents of El Paso, 400 in urban Lower Rio Grande Valley, 400 in colonias, 100 in trailer parks

2012 – 1,565 residents of US border, 771 US off-border (San Antonio), 1,649 residents of MX border, 811 MX off-border (Monterrey)
Methods for In-Person Surveys

- Random samples of adults 18+ living in households
- Face-to-face interviews in English or Spanish
- Conducted by trained, bilingual, community residents
- Analyses used statistical procedures to adjust for survey design (probability of selection) and to weight the sample to represent population demographics.
Lifetime & Past Year Alcohol Use Across Time (Border)

1996: 80% LT Alcohol Use, 60% PY Alcohol Use
2003: 79% LT Alcohol Use, 54% PY Alcohol Use
2012: 79% LT Alcohol Use, 71% PY Alcohol Use
Binge Drinking

- 4+/5+ drinks on one occasion at least monthly in past year
- 20% of Border residents in 2012
- Same as off-border
- Similar in 2003
- Of concern when leads to impaired driving
Impaired Driving: NHTSA

- Mexican-Americans have high rates of alcohol-related crashes
- Border at high risk for DWI
- Hispanics less likely to consider DWI to be a safety problem and
- Less likely to think they will be arrested
- DPS data show Hispanics over-represented in DWI but self-report data show underrepresentation
Impaired Driving

Likely to be Stopped for Driving While Intoxicated?

- US Int: 80%
- US Border: 74%
- MX Int: 56%
- MX Border: 51%

2012 UMSARC
Impaired Driving

Ever Stopped or Arrested for Drunk Driving?

- US Int: 9%
- US Border: 13%
- MX Int: 9%
- MX Border: 7%

2012 UMSARC
Impaired Driving

Maximum Drinks if Driving = Zero

- US Int: 82%
- US Border: 85%
- MX Int: 95%
- MX Border: 91%

2012 UMSARC
Lifetime & Past Year Illicit Drug Use Across Time (Border)
Which Illicit Drugs?
2012 Survey

- Marijuana: 11% past-year use
  – Identical on and off border
- Cocaine/crack: 6% past-year use
  -- Border higher than off border (2.4%)
- Heroin, methamphetamine, hallucinogens: 1% or less.
Abuse of Rx Drugs: 2012 Survey

- 17% of US Border residents misused Rx drugs in past year
- This was twice as many as off Border
- Pain relievers (15%)
- Sedatives (9%) and stimulants (4%)
Past Year Abuse/Dependence Across Time (Border)

- 1996: 20% Alcohol Abuse/Dependence, 5% Drug Abuse/Dependence
- 2003: 16% Alcohol Abuse/Dependence, 5% Drug Abuse/Dependence
- 2012: 17% Alcohol Abuse/Dependence, 6% Drug Abuse/Dependence
Characteristics of People with SUDs (2012)

- Male (73%)
- 18-29 (47%) or 30-49 (45%)
- HS graduate (72%)
- Single (59%)
- Both alcohol and drug users (79%)
  - Illicit drugs only (37%)
  - Illicit + Rx (36%)
Substance Use Trends: Quick Summary

- PY drinking has increased (71% in 2012)
- Binge drinking stable (20%)
- PY illicit drug use has increased (12%)
  - MJ (11%), cocaine/crack (6%)
- Rx misuse twice as high on border (17%)
- AUD & DUD stable since 2003
- Border respondents more likely to have been stopped for DWI than off border
Comparing Border with Other Populations

Texas Off-Border

US as a whole

Colonias

Mexican Border
Alcohol and Drug Use: Texas Border and Texas Interior

- PY Illicit Drug Use: 12% Border, 12% Interior
- PY Rx Misuse: 17% Border, 9% Interior
- Binge Drinking: 20% Border, 20% Interior
- Drug Use Disorder: 6% Border, 5% Interior
- Alcohol Use Disorder: 17% Border, 13% Interior

2012 UMSARC
Percent of Border and Nonborder Texas Secondary Students Who Had Ever Used Drugs: 2012

- Heroin
- Methamphetamine
- Alprazolam
- Rohypnol
- Cocaine/Crack
- Ecstasy
- Cannabis
- Alcohol
- Tobacco

**Non-Border**  |  **Border**
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The graph shows the percentage of students who had ever used drugs, with a comparison between border and non-border areas in Texas for the year 2012.
Admissions to Texas DSHS-Funded Treatment-Border 1996-2013
Admissions to Texas DSHS-Funded Treatment-Nonborder 1996-2013
Past Year Alcohol and Drug Use Among Age 18-25: Border and Nationwide

2012 USMSARC and 2012 NSDUH
Colonias
Colonias

- Unincorporated, unregulated communities
- Lack of basic infrastructure (paved roads, electricity, drainage, police)
- High poverty & unemployment
- About 2300 individual colonias
- 20% of Texas border population
Alcohol and Drug Use: Urban Valley and Colonias

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
DSM-IV Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Dependence: Urban Valley and Colonias

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
Comparing US Border with Mexican Border
Boundary of the United States established by Treaty of 1819

Republica Mexicana

Limit of the

TREATY OF 1819
RE-ESTABLISHED
BY TREATY OF
1819

MEXICANA

TREATY OF 1837
RE-ESTABLISHED
1834 - 1835
Alcohol and Drug Use on Both Sides of the Border

- PY Alc Use: 71% (US Border), 53% (MX Border)
- Binge Drinking: 19% (US Border), 5% (MX Border)
- PY Drug Use: 23% (US Border), 7% (MX Border)

2012 UMSARC
Alcohol and Drug Disorders on Both Sides of the Border

Alcohol Use Disorder:
- US Border: 17%
- MX Border: 7%

Drug Use Disorder:
- US Border: 6%
- MX Border: 1%
Substance Use Comparison: Quick Summary

- Alcohol, drug use and binge drinking are similar on and off border.
- Rx drug misuse is twice as high on border than off border; AUD slightly higher on border.
- Border = lower binge drinking than US Hispanics but higher AUD and DUD.
- Colonias showed higher binge drinking and alcohol dependence than urban areas.
- Use and disorders are higher on US side than MX side.
Need and Desire for Treatment
Would Seek Professional Help for a Problem that Interfered with Day-to-Day Activities

- Physical Problem = 81%
- Psychological Problem = 75%
- Drug or Alcohol Problem = 59%

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
What would you do if you had a drinking or drug problem that interfered with your daily activities?

- El Paso
- Valley
- Colonias

- Other
- Nothing
- Religious
- Fam/friends
- Self-help
- Med/prof

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
Treatment Desire and Experience

- Needed Tx as % of Subs Users: 46%, 39%
- Wanted Tx as % of Needed: 27%, 18%
- Got Tx as % of Wanted: 56%, 58%

US interior vs US border

2012 UMSARC
Sources of Substance Treatment Received

- AA/12-Step Program: 58%
- Alc/Drug Treatment Prog.: 56%
- Hospital/Doctor: 35%
- ER: 34%
- Private Therapist: 23%
- Social Service Program: 18%
- Traditional Health Worker: 18%
Factors Associated with Desire for Treatment

- Male
- Over 30
- Unemployed
- Drug user (vs. Alcohol-only user)
Factors Not Associated with Desire for Treatment

- Having health insurance
- Income
- Country of birth
- Acculturation
- Social support
- Motives for drinking
Factors Related to Lower Desire for Treatment

- High School graduate or +
- Married
- Living on Border (vs interior)
Why Lower Desire on Border?

• Less knowledge of what treatment entails
• Not knowing how to get it
• Not thinking SUD needs treatment
• Lack of trust in formal institutions
• Stigma
• Concern re cost, eligibility, etc.
Perceived Barriers as Percentage of Persons Who Wanted but Failed to Receive Care

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
Treatment: Quick Summary

• Fewer would seek Tx for SUD than for medical or psychological problems
• Most would turn to medical/professional treatment or self-help groups.
• Only a quarter or less who need Tx want it.
• Of those, half have gotten Tx
• Barriers include cost, not knowing where, embarrassment, mistrust of Tx, and logistical issues.
Promotoras
• Trusted community members who provide:
  – Health education and information
  – Liaison to community services
  – Informal counseling
  – Social support & advocacy
  – Mentor, role model

• Training and certification through DSHS
• About 300 in the Valley & 200 in El Paso
• Substance abuse prevention, tobacco cessation, screening & referral, DWI education
• Study of adolescent “cheese” heroin users found parents did not understand detox was not treatment.

• Family did not want to be separated from the child who needed to enter residential treatment.

• Treatment staff not always bilingual and promotoras would have been helpful in translating and explaining what was happening.
Social and Neighborhood Factors Related to Substance Use
Drug Availability and Visibility in Neighborhood, by Site

- MJ Available: Valley 55%, Colonias 60%
- Oth Drugs Available: Valley 42%, Colonias 55%
- Neighborhood Abuse: Valley 19%, Colonias 46%

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
Drug Trafficking Attitudes, by Site

2003 UTSSW Border Survey
Bottom Line

• Higher rates of substance problems
• Focus on serving colonias
• People would use professional Tx but barriers remain
• High rates of Rx misuse & DWI
• Use Promotoras
• Retain the best of both cultures
Selected References
